



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Spectrum Certification Signed

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Mr. Chris Lewis, Public Safety Communications Program Manager in the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Wireless Programs and Spectrum Management Office (WPSMO) announced a groundbreaking approval by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to share scarce resources and achieve a new level of interoperability in Montana. On Feb. 11, the NTIA Spectrum Planning Subcommittee (SPS) signed and approved the Certification for DOI to provide access to federal spectrum in the State of Montana's P25 Trunked system.

This document signifies the culmination of many months of hard work in achieving a paradigm shift in accomplishing a melding of federal and non-federal public safety agency's communications capabilities.

Lewis expressed his appreciation to everyone who worked to achieve this accomplishment, with special recognition to Dick Clark, State of Montana Chief Information Officer and special thanks to Chris Christensen, Montana Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) Chief, for providing focus and leadership on behalf of the Interoperability Montana partnership and for providing insightful information and testimony to the NTIA. Scott Bradford, PSSB, also was acknowledged for his hard work in providing essential data needed to support DOI's submission of the original request for certification of the IM Project.

In addition, DOI SPS Representative Rick Gladden was recognized for ensuring that the request for certification stayed on track. Lewis also thanked all the agencies and individuals who provided insights, ideas and information to help work through numerous deliberations to reach this groundbreaking NTIA and FCC approval.

Montana Chapter APCO Meeting Report

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Montana Chapter of APCO met in Billings on Thurs. Feb. 7. Public Safety Services Bureau staff member Monica Ness was in attendance. Kim Burdick, Chouteau County Sheriff's Dept. Communications Supervisor and Executive Council

Representative for Montana APCO gave a report on the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT). Montana APCO members are very interested in starting TERT in Montana and will work with the Dept. of Public Health and Human Services to pursue this goal. In addition, a fact sheet will be developed.

President Susan Bomstad is working on a fact sheet about the 20-year retirement issue for dispatchers. It was suggested that legislators be invited to local PSAP's to help build their understanding of dispatcher duties and demands. Another idea is to create a video of PSAP activities during an emergency. Member Ray Hetherington will represent Montana APCO at the April Governor's Summit on Emergency Preparedness and will distribute the TERT and 20-Year Retirement fact sheets.

Members also discussed MLEA training opportunities for dispatchers. Information about careers in dispatching should be promoted at various career fairs around the state.

The Montana APCO conference is tentatively scheduled for October in Billings. Specific information on dates and facilities will be forthcoming. Members were encouraged to send speaker and topic ideas to Ray Hetherington.

Montana Frequency Advisory Committee (MFAC) meetings may be held prior to some Montana APCO meetings so that members can be updated about frequency issues. On another matter, officers are working on bylaws updates so they can be voted on at the next meeting. In addition, Montana APCO president will be drafting a response about the Legislative Audit Division 9-1-1 results and will be submitting it to members for review and approval.

Other business included the following items:

- Montana APCO will pay for one annual APCO membership for a dispatcher.
- Travel expenses required for the 20-Year Dispatcher retirement and TERT initiatives will be paid with prior presidential approval.
- Montana APCO will support the proposed new law which requires Driver's License photos of minors to be located on the right side of the license.

The next Montana APCO meeting will take place on Thurs., May 1 in Helena.



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South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The South Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (SCMIC) meeting took place in Bozeman on Feb. 13. Chairperson Kerry O'Connell opened the meeting and the group approved the preceding month's minutes. Progress reports from Gallatin, Madison, Park and Sweet Grass Counties were discussed.

Jason Shrauger, SCMIC Project Director, gave a report on recent meetings of the Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD), the Interoperability Montana Technical Committee (IMTC) and the Interoperability Montana Governance Committee (IMGC). He reviewed meeting minutes and discussed their affect on the consortium. Members also discussed the draft Organizational Needs briefing that was recently presented to the IMPD.

The board approved the appointment of Kerry O'Connell as the Project Director for SCMIC, with Jason Shrauger and Peggy Glass as first and second alternates. Peggy Glass will serve as SCMIC Chairperson and Kerry O'Connell will be Vice Chairperson. Kerry O'Connell also was appointed as SCMIC's representative to the Interoperability Montana Technical Committee with Peggy Glass as the alternate.

Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, reported on changes to the Interoperability Montana (IM) network plan. Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, reported on the current status of SCMIC sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The time and place of the next meeting will be announced later due to a scheduling conflict with the March 12 date.



Upcoming Meetings

February 19

Western Interoperability Consortium (WICC)
Missoula • 10:00 am
Missoula Co. Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway

February 20

Eastern Tier (ETIC) • Glendive • 10:00 am
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

February 21

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am
Chamber of Commerce Conf. Rm.; 1000 George St.

February 22 - Please note date change

IM Technical Committee Face-to-Face Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

February 27-29

IWCE Conference and Exposition
Las Vegas, NV

February 27

Tri-County Consortium • Helena • 10:00 am
DOC Annex Conf Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

February 28

Mobile Data Terminal Consortium
Bozeman • 10:00 am
Best Western City Center Conf. Rm.; 507 W Main St.

February 28

Big Sky 11 • Billings • 10:00 am
Yellowstone County Fire Station 1 (EOC)
2305 8th Ave N.

March 3

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive
IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

March 4

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

March 5

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am
Wheat Building; 750 6th Street SW

March 12

Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)
Helena • 10:00 am - Noon
Rm. 152, State Capitol